

TRYPANOSOMA RHODESIENSE IN A CASE OF SLEEPING SICKNESS FROM THE SUDAN

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Three cases of human trypanosomiasis were recently brought to Khartoum by Captain Mackinnon, M.C., R.A.M.C., Medical Officer in Charge of the Sleeping Sickness Camp at Tembura, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province of the Sudan.

Gland puncture carried out two months previously had proved positive for trypanosomes in all three cases; in order, however, to minimize the possibility of spreading infection during their journey through fly-infested areas, each patient had received two injections of 0.5 gramme atoxyl.

On arrival in Khartoum gland puncture was again carried out, but trypanosomes could not be found in the several preparations examined; it was decided, however, to inoculate animals with the gland juice obtained from one of the patients. The case selected showed evidence of somnolence with a well marked enlargement of the lymphatic glands of the neck and axilla, as well as a slight degree of pyrexia. An emulsion of the gland juice with a sterile 1 per cent. solution of sodium citrate was prepared, and inoculated subcutaneously into three healthy gerbil rats.

At the end of sixty-six days one of these rats showed an intense infection with trypanosomes in its peripheral blood; stained preparations demonstrated the presence of posterior nucleated forms.

Further details regarding this trypanosome and its pathogenicity for various animals will be published later by Captain Whitehead, M.C., R.A.M.C., Government Bacteriologist; suffice it to say that its morphological characters and pathogenicity for animals, justify

the conclusion that the trypanosome is *T. rhodesiense*, an opinion shared by Professor Warrington Yorke, who kindly examined stained blood films from infected rats, as well as other data submitted.

Investigations regarding the insect carrier of this trypanosome remain to be carried out; it is of interest, however, to note that *Glossina fuscipes* and *G. morsitans* are ubiquitous in the district of Tembura.

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